

MUSTANG DAILY

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TUESDAY

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Twenty-four years ago, mechanical engineering professor Ron Mullisen flew this A-6 fighter plane for the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; now the plane is at the Paso Robles Airport / Photo courtesy of Ron Mullisen

Professor, fighter plane meet again

By Rebecca Nordquist
Daily Staff Writer

An old, retired member of the Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242 sits at the Paso Robles Airport.

It's an A-6 fighter plane, but it isn't your ordinary plane. In 1972-73, it fought in the Vietnam War and 24 years later, it found its way back to one of its



Mullisen recalls the feeling of flying an attack airplane / Daily photo by Elda Palma

pilots: Cal Poly mechanical engineering professor Ron Mullisen.

"I'd love to fly it again," Mullisen said, looking up at the gray fighter plane.

One of Mullisen's friends told him that an airplane similar to the one he flew was flying into the Paso Robles Airport to be donated to the Confederate Air Force. Curious, Mullisen drove to the airport to see it.

"I wrote down the bureau number then went home and found an old photograph of me standing next to the plane I flew in Vietnam," he said. "It just happened to be the same plane."

Mullisen served in the Marine Corps and was stationed in El Toro before he went to Vietnam for one year.

"We were called the Night Bats," he said. "Our helmets were painted fancy and so was the tail of the plane."

"When we went to Vietnam, we had to paint it over in camouflage and take off all of the reflective tape so we couldn't be seen in the jungles."

Mullisen compared the feel-

ing of flying an attack airplane in combat to taking an examination that you have been waiting for all quarter.

"The preparation to fly before a mission almost feels the same as right before you take a real tough exam," Mullisen explained, standing on the wing of the A-6 airplane. "There is that uneasiness, anticipation and nervousness. There's also a certain degree of not being able to wait so you can just get it over with."

"As the time approaches, there is also that same sense of focus when taking an exam," he continued. "You become totally focused on what you're doing."

When asked if the feeling was escalated because his life was in danger, he answered, "You can only worry so much."

As a 25-year-old flying the airplane, Mullisen said his first mission was a whole different world from training in the United States.

"The airplane is fairly easy to fly, but the mission is very demanding," he said. "There is a tremendous amount of con-

See PLANE page 6

At least 13 killed in explosion in Israel during celebration

By Dan Perry
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — In a scene growing horribly familiar, a suicide bomber turned a day of light-hearted Jewish celebration into a nightmare of blood and smoke, killing at least 13 more people in an accelerating terror campaign that struck Monday in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The victims included children in costume and makeup for the holiday of Purim. At least 109 people were wounded in the attack, which left a jumble of shattered bodies and wrecked cars and paralyzed the peace effort.

A mounting toll of dead and wounded, the repeated scenes of carnage and the heart-wrenching despair of victims' families fueled a deep upwelling of anger among Israelis. It was the fourth such attack in the country in nine days.

A furious, wildly militant mood swept over Tel Aviv, a city known for its generally moderate populace that supports peacemaking with Palestinians and Arabs.

The death toll might have been much higher if the bomber, who was on foot when he carried out the attack, had managed to enter a crowded shopping center, authorities said. Israel radio said at least 13 people were killed.

As the government met in emergency session at the heavily-guarded Defense Ministry complex a mile from the bombing site, crowds outside lit bonfires and shouted "We want war!" and "We want revenge!"

Demonstrators shouted "Death to Arabs!" and one man held a sign calling for a "final solution" against them — paraphrasing the Nazi term for the World War II slaughter of millions of Jews.

Some Cabinet ministers even called for strikes in autonomous

Palestinian land — a move that would violate the Israel-PLO accords and badly discredit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat among his people.

A grim-faced Prime Minister Shimon Peres, however, said Israel will not surrender to terrorism. "Even this time, with all the pain in my heart, we will come out of this stronger," he insisted.

The attackers, who seek to destroy the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, appear close to achieving their goal and forcing a change in Israel's policy. Until now, Israeli reaction to attacks had been primarily defensive and calculated to preserve the peacemaking.

In a call to Israel Radio, the Muslim militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for Monday's bombing. Hamas has also claimed the previous three bombings, which killed 44 victims and three Palestinian suicide bombers.

Faced with the possible collapse of his three-year peace gamble, Arafat said he was ready to cooperate fully with Israel in going after Palestinian militants. But he added that he hoped Israel would not act hastily and break off peace talks.

"I hope that we will not reward these terrorists," Arafat told reporters in Gaza City.

Monday's blast went off outside the Dizengoff Center, the largest shopping center in the Mediterranean metropolis that is the financial and cultural center of Israel.

The bomber was on foot when he carried out the attack just after 4 p.m.

Before exploding the bomb, he had tried to enter the shopping center but appeared to draw the suspicions of policemen stationed at the entrance, according to witnesses. He then turned away

See BOMBINGS page 3

Students bike to D.C. for environment

By Val Avalos
Daily Staff Writer

There are a variety of ways for people to travel across the country. One could travel by bus, plane, car or train. But how about traveling 3,600 miles across the country on a bike?

This is exactly what two Cal Poly students, environmental engineering freshman Terressa Whitaker and psychology senior Stacie Gregory, intend to do this summer.

The pair is cycling across the country in an effort to raise environmental awareness and also to raise money for the environmental group Overseas Development Network (ODN).

"This will be the biggest thing

I've ever done," Whitaker said. "It will also benefit other people — it's not just a personal feat."

In order to participate in the trip, which is organized by a non-profit group called Bike-Aid, each individual must raise a minimum of \$2,000 in sponsor money and pay a \$125 registration fee, according to Bike-Aid representative Robin Pugh.

The registration fees go to Bike-Aid and the money raised by sponsors goes toward ODN. ODN, in turn, donates money to environmental groups who need financial assistance for projects or to get their group started.

This will be the 11th year Bike-Aid has organized the cross-country cycling trip, and so far it's been a success for

everyone involved, Pugh said.

"It's an amazing way to spend your summer and a very intimate way to see the country," she said. "Almost everyone that I've spoken to who has participated has told me it's really changed their lives."

During the trip, participants cycle about 70 miles a day, six days a week. In addition, cyclists meet with local environmental groups across the country and meet with other groups to inform them of what they have learned.

Although the trip is challenging, it is also very empowering, Pugh said.

"You learn a sense of your own power, and how much of a difference an individual can make,"

See BIKE-AID page 6



Psychology senior Stacie Gregory (right) and environmental engineering freshman Terressa Whitaker (left) prepare to ride over 3,600 miles in order to raise environmental awareness / Daily photo by L. Scott Robinson

FORUM

INSIDE TODAY'S
MUSTANG DAILY

Some say claiming the Native American heritage as an ethnicity means more than just marking a box.

See page 2

OPINION

If you think Mustang Daily is full of errors, check out what Jennifer Cornelius has to say.

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Reaching Us:

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AGENDA OF TUESDAY WEEK 10

MARCH
5

2 school days left in term.
TODAY'S WEATHER:
Rain through Wednesday
Today's high/low: 60s/40s
Tomorrow's high/low: 60s/40s

TODAY

• "26 Hour" organizational meeting is taking place at 11 a.m. in building 10, room 222.

• Let your transit needs be known at the SLO city bus service public hearing at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

Upcoming

• SAM's hiking boot sale is taking place March 6 on Dexter Lawn from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• "Agriview" organizational meeting is taking place March 6 at 7 p.m. in building 8, room 123. Anyone interested in participating should attend.

• "26 Hours of Science and Technology in Agriculture" is taking place March 7 and 8. Anyone interested in helping out can call 756-2627.

• Cal Poly WriterSpeak presents "An Evening of Poetry, Fiction and Dance" March 6 at 7 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre. The program will consist of fiction and poetry readings by Cal Poly professors Kevin Clark and Mary Kay Harrington, and a dance performed by graduate student Nikole Brown and troupe. There is no admission charge.

• The Physics Colloquium is featuring Greg Lascala, Mark Horning, Keith Moravick, and Tony Aghazarian March 7 at 11:10 a.m. in building 52, room E-45. They will be discussing "Solar Neutrons on Deuterium," "Super Luminal Quasars," "Colloidal Crystals," and "Atmospheric Ice Crystals."

• "Introduction to Aikido Techniques and Principles" is being offered by Safe-SLO Nonprofit Corporation on four Thursday evenings beginning March 7 at 6 p.m. For more information call 995-1224 or 544-5425.

• The University of Oregon School of Law will be hosting a Public Interest Environmental Law Conference March 7-10. The theme of this year's conference is "Contract with the Earth." For more information contact Kurt Peterson at (503) 346-3828.

• Vines to Wines Club is having their first annual winemaker dinner event March 8 at the Monday Club in San Luis Obispo. The event will begin at 7 p.m. The cost will be \$60.00 per person, with \$25.00 of the ticket being tax-deductible. Seating is limited and reservations are required. To make reservations contact Dr. Robert Noyes at 756-2997.

• Mexico de Noche: "Colores de Nuestra Cultura" is taking place March 9 at Cal Poly Theatre. For ticket information contact Anytime Artsline at 756-1421.

Agenda Items c/o Natasha Collins, Graphic Arts
226, Cal Poly 93407
Fax: 756-6784

Voices of a Heritage



By Michelle Castillo
Daily Staff Writer

When wearing them, I will be reminded of where my heart is (with the Indian people) and which way my blood flows (down into Mother Earth).

This excerpt is from a poem about moccasins by Stacey Anderson, biology senior and member of the Aleut Nation of Alaska.

Yet those words go beyond describing the moccasins on her feet; they characterize a way of life for Anderson.

It's a feeling she said should be the way of life for all American Indian students.

But she fears it isn't.

There is a concern that some students may be designating themselves as American Indians on Cal Poly's admissions application when they might not be Native American at all.

According to Tony Domingues, Cal Poly's senior admissions officer, 78 American Indian students enrolled in fall 1995, bringing the campus total to 225.

Yet the Native American Student Organization (NASO), and its cohort, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), grew by only one member, according to Anderson.

The NASO and AISES clubs have the same members and thus meet jointly once a week.

"There are nine members total; seven show up to meetings on a regular basis," Anderson said. "Nine out of 225 is not a good ratio."

A yellow flag appeared to the students during the spring 1995 quarter when AISES members participated in an admissions office phone-a-thon and made calls to Native American students who had recently been accepted to Cal Poly.

"Some of the students' answers were wishy-washy," Anderson said.

"They would answer: 'I don't

know what tribe I'm from' or 'I have to ask my parents,'" she said. "One girl answered 'Sioux' but pronounced it 'Soo-icks' instead of 'Soo.'"

Erica Jameson, biology junior and member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, also participated in the phone-a-thon and shared doubts about the validity of the number of American Indian students on campus.

"I don't believe the numbers," she said. "And I challenge (the administration) to prove us wrong."

Domingues, as an admissions recruiter also questioned the numbers.

"The numbers look good for Cal Poly," Domingues said. "But I don't believe the numbers, and neither do the Native American students."

Domingues believes that half of the 225 American Indian students don't know what tribe

appli- cants receive extra points toward acceptance during the admissions process.

While investigating this story, we encountered resistance from some of the sources contacted. The sensitivity of the topic became obvious as the number of people who refused to go on record grew.

Robert Gish, English and ethnic studies professor, granted an interview but refused to be quoted due to the controversy and the number of phone calls he said he would receive if his comments were printed.

The System

"It's all voluntary," said Jim Maraviglia, director of admissions. "There is no DNA testing done to determine race."

Students have the option of marking a box that best describes their ethnic identity, he said.

When an applicant checks the American Indian box, the tribal affiliation must also be included. If the tribe line is left blank, an admissions processor will generate a letter, said Domingues.

According to a copy of a letter dated 1991, only individuals recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can officially be classified as American Indian or Alaskan Native.

The letter requires the applicant to indicate his or her tribal affiliation or identify the next most correct identity.

"There's controversy surrounding this issue," Domingues said, "because no BIA number is required."

Jeffrey Wero, electrical engineering junior and member of the Dineh Nation of Arizona, said he has a Certification of Indian Blood (C.I.B.) card but admissions never asked for it.

Gene Goodwin, mechanical engineering junior and member of the Wailacki Nation of Northern California, said he also has verification but has never been asked to produce it.

Maraviglia explained why this is true.

"It is illegal for us to check someone's ethnicity," explained Maraviglia. "And yes, for some, additional ethnicity points may help them get selected."

But not always.

He described Cal Poly's admission eligibility as follows: The top 60 percent of applicants are chosen based solely on objective scores from grades and tests. The remaining 40 percent are based on the objective score plus other factors, such as veteran status, transfers from junior colleges, domicile residence in San Luis Obispo county, gender and ethnicity.

"Our statistics show that 99 percent of the applicants have reliable, self-reported applications," said Maraviglia.

However, dishonesty is still prevalent. "It's still a problem," said Stacie Grange, crop science junior and member of the Cherokee Nation.

"What if someone knowingly lies and gets in and an American Indian doesn't?"

According to Domingues, the letter is the only follow-up required of the admissions office.

Stanford University takes it one step further.

"At Stanford we ask American Indians to fill out a form," said Joan Lippman, associate director of admissions. "Among other things, we ask them to describe how important being Native American is to their lives."

As was the case with some of Cal Poly's faculty and staff, Lippman would not go on record about possible misuse of the ethnic code boxes in the application process. However, she did expand on the steps that she takes to help prevent it.

Lippman explained that for other under-represented students, such as Mexican American and African American, for which there is no form of verification, she looks for ties and links to Hispanic organizations or young African American groups.

"We look for something that says, 'This is not about what I was born, but who I am,'" she said.

Stanford's American Indian population in the Fall of 1995 was 1 percent, or 180 students, according to Lippman. Institutional

See FORUM Page 3



Gene Goodwin, Stacie Grange, Stacey Anderson, Jeffrey Wero, Erica Jameson / Daily photo by Maureen McDowell

they're from and said that this is a big ethical question.

"As a Native American, I have a problem with students marking the American Indian box when they don't know about their culture or history."

Domingues believes that in some instances students' parents told them somewhere in their past, maybe 200 years ago, they had Native American relatives.

"In other instances," he said, "students have probably outright lied."

It's unethical, said Domingues and Anderson, because, among other things, under-represented

BOMBINGS: Bomber detonated the device strapped to his body in a crowd of about 20 people near cash machines in Tel Aviv

From page 1

toward a crowd of about 20 people around a row of cash machines and detonated the explosive device strapped to his body.

"I suddenly heard an absolutely tremendous explosion, and then a cloud of smoke filled the whole intersection," said a

woman in her 30s, who gave her name as Michal. "I saw bodies everywhere, pieces of bodies."

Eli Shurany, 39, said he saw a woman and a young girl, about 10 years old, who were killed instantly. "There was one girl with the bottom of her leg blown off, her bone sticking out," Shurany said.

An empty baby carriage stood

only yards from where the bomb had gone off. A mother pulled her sobbing daughter away, tears streaking the Purim makeup on the girl's face.

Ichilov Hospital said it treated four children wounded by the bomb.

One young girl was injured by flying glass while shopping with her mother and two sisters. All three girls were in costume.

"All her back was full of glass fragments. She was bleeding. She has a hole in her back. It was horrifying," their mother told Israel radio.

Many Purim celebrations had been canceled anyway, due to Sunday's bus bombing in Jerusalem. The holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a

plot to slaughter them.

Monday's bombing came four months to the day after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination by a Jewish right-wing extremist, which plunged Israel into gloom but also infused the peace process with unprecedented public support.

That has been turned on its head by the four bombings.

FORUM: The numbers of Native Americans on campus may be inflated at Cal Poly and other colleges

From page 2

Studies reported that Cal Poly's American Indian enrollment for the same year was 1.5 percent, or 225 students.

A tenured faculty member who refused to be identified, believes this number is inflated.

The Problem

Stacey Anderson and the other members of AISES want to know: Where are the other 216 American Indian students?

But there is no easy answer to this question.

"Look, I'm not trying to deny anyone their ethnic heritage," said Tony Domingues. "But students are able to take advantage by checking the (American Indian) box, and then they don't give anything back when they get here."

This makes Gene Goodwin a little angry.

In his attempt to recruit American Indian students, many told him that they had no plans to join the Native American club.

"I'm not sure how much they really know about Native Americans," he said.

Erica Jameson said that students who marked the Indian box should give back what they've taken.

"Selfishness is not a trait my

nation condones," she said.

For Thaddeus Chilcoat, engineering science senior and member of the Choctaw nation of Oklahoma, it's a pride issue.

"I'm proud, and I want to be involved," he said. "People can check off who they are, but they should help their community."

Chilcoat expressed concern that if people use (the box) for their personal gain, then it's not morally sound.

Robert Hoover, professor of social sciences, said a self-reported process is a problem.

"It's open to abuse if no checking is done," he said.

"If it is abused, people could be cheated, and it's fraud."

Not Black & White

"You can't go on what a student looks like," said Ursula Bishop, program director of minority access to health careers. "It's what's in their heart and in their head."

Bishop also granted an interview for this story but would not go on record with all of her comments.

"I see a number of students who are close to their ethnic group and culture," she said choosing her words carefully.

"I've also met students who entered the university as 'white'

and discovered they are American Indian and want to change their ethnicity."

Bishop encourages students to get involved so they can become more aware of their heritage's concerns, problems and issues.

As people in our country continue to assimilate, she said it is becoming more and more difficult to identify with any one heritage.

"Lately we've seen a growing response to students checking 'other' or 'no response.'"

Pat Tschohl, Cal Poly account technician and member of the Potawatomi nation of Michigan, believes that many of the Native American students enrolled are probably "descendants" of American Indians, not tribal members.

She explained that in her nation a person is not an official tribe member unless that person has one-quarter blood quantum.

"Blood quantum" is a verification process set by the U.S. government to determine whether or not a person is an American Indian.

"A tribal member has tribal affiliation," Tschohl explained. "Anybody else is considered a descendant."

"Not to say that their blood quantum is any less important, but people with less than one-quarter are usually from the

urban communities."

But an applicant can't rely on blood percentage alone.

Out of approximately 107 tribes in California, Bishop said, roughly 97 are federally recognized.

A Nation Divided

Toward the end of this investigation, we met with some of the American Indian students again, individually, to get a reaction to the development of the story and to the resistance of some of the sources.

The students had common reactions to the findings but different opinions as to how to handle the issue.

One by one, they shared their feelings.

Erica Jameson said she was disappointed that people wouldn't come clean.

"It's now a system of deceit if people are falsifying numbers."

She said she would like to see Cal Poly verify the ethnic code boxes or remove them altogether from the application.

"You'll never get someone to admit that the system doesn't work," she said.

Jeffrey Wero said checking a box is bureaucratic.

"We're always being classified,"

he said. "It's just another way for them to keep track of us."

Stacie Grange said she didn't even check the American Indian box on her application. She suggested Cal Poly verify or get rid of the boxes.

"If there's fraud, it's immoral. I know it's their own guilt to deal with," Grange said. "But guilt doesn't affect a lot of people."

Gene Goodwin said he isn't surprised that no one would address the issue.

"Nobody wants to get in hot water; it's the same old thing everywhere."

Goodwin said he wants to do away with the boxes.

"What did checking the box do (for me)? I never got anything from checking the box."

Stacey Anderson said the system needs to change and people know it.

She said she would feel better if Cal Poly verified the American Indian ethnicity.

"How difficult would it be to insert a verification form in the (admissions acceptance) packet?"

Anderson sighed with frustration. Giving back to the American Indian people whether it be on campus or in the community, she said, is simply a way of life.

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COLUMN

AOD
SPIRITSome
Practical
Information
Regarding
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Tidbits

Party smart during spring break

Only two more weeks until SPRING BREAK. Most of us have been waiting for this week for all of 1996. Trips have been planned extensively and now that moment is almost here. Some of us will be in the sun and others of us will be in the snow. Wherever the week of rest and relaxation takes you, the members of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Team want to make sure you make it back for spring quarter.

Very often the exotic ports of call for college age spring breakers include consumption of a whole lot of food, fun and sun. For some, alcohol plays a big part in spring break festivities. But the rules don't change just because you're off in some distant land. Alcohol makes you more prone to do things you normally wouldn't do. It's that whole lowered inhibitions thing again. Be aware of your surroundings and what you're doing. If you feel the need to impress your friends by swan-diving off that 300-foot cliff, better do it sober and safer. Don't let your not-so-sober boldness convince you that you should be on the US Cliffdiving Team. The same holds true for all recreational activities. Boating, swimming and skiing can all be dangerous if you participate while under the influence. If you are going on a ski trip, don't drink before skiing. This could prove fatal. Trees and rocks are just as hard when you've been drinking and can do quite a number on your noggin. If you decide you do want to go into the lodge for a drink, you should stay there and forget skiing until the next day.

Remember to keep hydrated. Alcohol dehydrates your body. Dehydration can be a serious medical emergency. If you're out in the warmth of the sun, don't rely on those few beers to keep your body fluids in check. Make sure you drink water, or at least something non-alcoholic, with a little better nutritional value than barley and hops. It will also help your hangover.

A DUI is a DUI. It doesn't matter if it's on a bike, in a car or in a boat. DUI laws are just as strict in other states as they are here in California. So if you've had a few to drink, stay off that waverunner or that snowmobile. Your safety and the safety of those out with you is at stake.

All of us tend to get comfortable in the relatively safe environment here in San Luis Obispo. If you head off to somewhere else, remember, you're not in Kansas anymore. Go out in groups and keep track of where all of you are, all the time. Buddy up. Make sure you know where your buddy is all the time. Make smart decisions about the invitations you may receive. One thing that stays the same is your right to say no. If you don't feel right about something, don't do it. Simple.

Try to keep an ID on you all the time. That way, if something does happen, you'll be prepared and those assisting you (medical or otherwise) will have an easier time. Also, just as you know it's spring break, so do the women and men of law enforcement. They'll be out in force, so keep those open containers closed and keep drunk friends from behind the wheel.

So it's easy. Spring break, wherever it may lead you, can be an exotic, amazing experience by keeping these party smart tips in mind. You'll be much safer and have a lot more fun. See you in spring!

Ashish Arya and Craig VanderZwaag are biology seniors.



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Misspellings, misquotings...
misunderstandings

by Jennifer Cornelius

So, why are you reading the Mustang Daily? All it is is a few students throwing together some articles with some radical headlines and misinterpreted information, right?

And since the paper isn't very good, the students and staff must not put a lot of effort into it, right?

I mean really, those story ideas aren't very interesting, or written very well and they don't cover enough of the right sports, right?

Wrong. But I'm sure many of you agree with those sentiments, which really isn't fair to the staff of the Mustang Daily.

When I came to Cal Poly that short year and a half ago, I had no intentions of writing for the Mustang Daily. Whenever I read the newspaper, I said, "Jeez, I could write better than that — they must let anybody write for this thing."

Nobody but current and past staff members really understand what goes into the Mustang Daily. Sure you skim it, comment on what we did wrong then toss it under your desk for the next poor sap to pick up. Does anyone read the articles?

And yes, they do let anyone with the right prerequisites write for the paper, but "anyone" is a relative statement.

Nobody but current and past staff members really understand what goes into one edition of the Mustang Daily. Sure, you skim it and comment on what we did wrong, then toss it under your desk for the next poor sap to pick up. Does anyone actually read the articles?

I admit, last year I, too, ragged on the Mustang Daily, but now I can say I perceive things a lot differently. Seeing things from the inside changes your perspective a little bit.

Before I started writing for the paper, I didn't realize the amount of work that goes into writing one story. First, you have to get the story assignment. Then you have to begin contacting people, which sounds a lot easier than it is. I'm sure you've tried to get a simple question answered on this campus and end up getting the runaround from everyone you talk to. It happens to the reporters too. It's not an easy task. The meaning of phone tag has suddenly become very clear to me.

Once you actually contact the person, you have to in-

terview this person, take notes and turn it into a knowledgeable story. Sounds easy, but try doing that while going to class, studying for midterms and having a social life. Gee, I wonder which one gets lost in the shuffle?

Why, then, do we put ourselves through such agony? For many, it's a requirement. In fact, I bet you didn't realize that the Daily staff writers are students in a class. Try writing 18 articles in one quarter and getting graded on them for two measly units of credit. For some, this is what they want to do in life. For others, it is a stepping stone to other aspects of journalism.

This is my first quarter writing for the paper; in fact, it's my first time writing for any paper. Maybe I thought the image of the paper would change if I was writing for it, but, I guess not.

However, this time, I'm the one who gets to hear the complaints. I really enjoy interviews that start out with the interviewee asking ME why the paper does this, or doesn't do that. Uhhh, wait a minute, I'm supposed to be asking the questions here. My usual response: "I just work here."

Sometimes, I don't know why the Mustang Daily does the things it does. Anytime a staff member does something wrong or controversial, it reflects back on the entire staff, including every writer who decides to take the class and put their name on a story. I guess that's life though. Sometimes you must accept the repercussions of somebody else's actions.

However, must we always harp on the negative? I suppose that's how society is. I guess the media hurts itself, too, considering much of their reporting is done on the negative aspects of life.

I'm not saying the Mustang Daily is worthy of your praise every day, but it does deserve a little credit. There are no excuses for wrong information in a story, or misspelled names or misleading headlines. In fact, that is what gives a paper its credibility and power. And yes, the Daily may need to work on all those aspects, but you could help by mixing in a little positive feedback with the negative.

And don't you dare say there isn't anything positive about this paper, because if you don't see the talent, the effort, and the dedication the staff and writers put into the Mustang Daily, you need to get your eyes checked.

Jennifer Cornelius is a Daily Staff Writer.

MUSTANG DAILY

"He's got a small genitalia complex, among other things."

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FROM THE HIP:

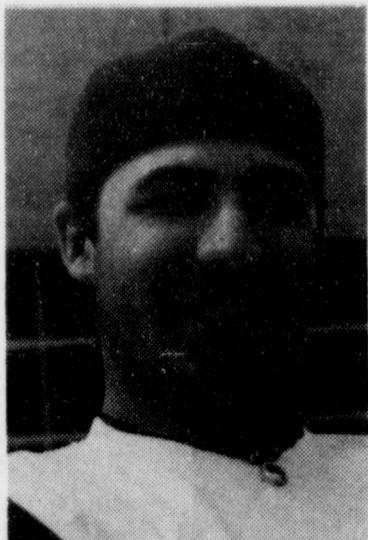
What famous person do you most fantasize about?

Interviews by Jeff Deach
Daily photos by Juan Martinez



"Stephen Hawking because he has overcome his physical disabilities to become a world famous physicist."

Steve McManus
Electrical engineering senior



"Hugh Hefner because he is so old and has all those fine chicks around him, along with all that money."

Kevin Mohr
Physical education freshman



"Wesley Snipes because of the way he carries himself off screen is so wonderful."

Edith Hernandez
Political science senior.



"Robert DeNiro because he is a brilliant artist."

Danielle DiRaimondo
Business freshman.



"Yoda because he is a Jedi master who knows the ways of the Force."

Wilmar Tretasco
Business freshman



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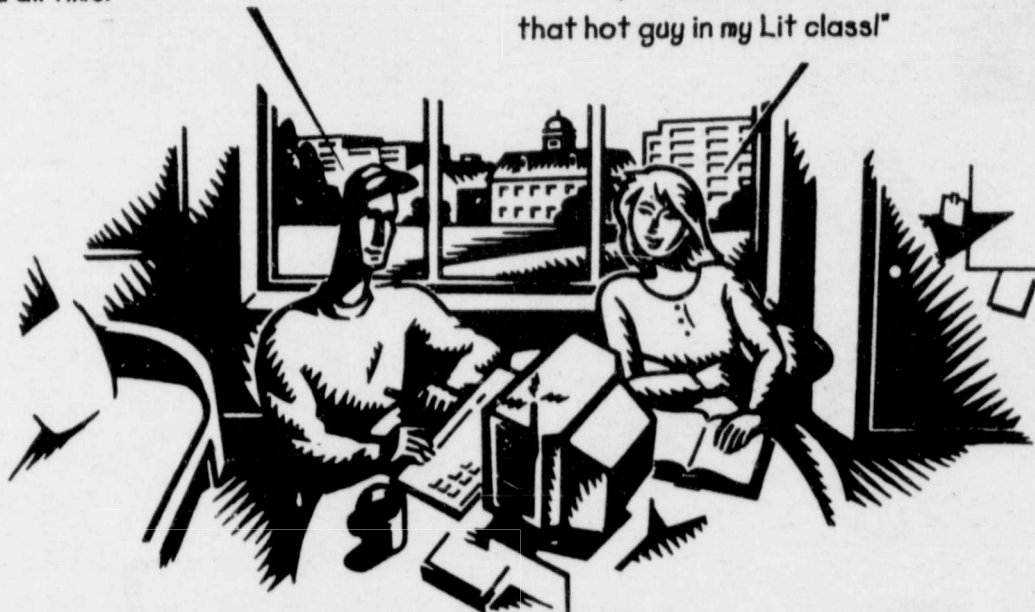
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ARMY ROTC

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BIKE-AID: Students worried about mental fatigue

From page 1

she said.

Whitaker said she is excited about the trip and is eager to meet the challenge.

"It's a crazy adventure that seems impossible, yet it is possible," Whitaker said.

Gregory agreed.

"It's such a big adventure, I don't really know what to expect," Gregory said. "I'm just going to take it day by day."

The two students expect to start their journey on June 17, after a three-day orientation with Bike-Aid, and expect to reach their destination — Washington D.C. — in approximately 10 weeks.

Of the five routes offered, the two students chose to take the route leaving from Seattle, Wash. The routes leaving from Seattle, San Francisco and Portland, Ore. are the three longest routes estimated at 3,600 miles. Two shorter routes, which leave from Chapel Hill, N.C., and Montreal, Canada, are also estimated at 500 and 1,000 miles respectively. The destination of each route is the same.

Whitaker said she selected this route for specific reasons.

"I've been up in (Washington) before and I love it," she said. "I'd also like to be with people who aren't from this area so I can meet new people."

In preparation for the trip, Whitaker, who said she normally

cycles no more than the average person, is avoiding bus and automobile transportation.

"I'm taking my bike wherever I can go," she said.

Whitaker said she thinks getting over the Sierra Mountains will be the most difficult part of the trip.

"Getting over the Sierras will be a challenge, but after this it will get easier," she said. "Every obstacle I overcome, the next will be that much easier."

"I'm worried about the physical and mental fatigue," she continued. "but meeting the challenges will make it worthwhile."

Gregory, an avid cyclist, shares Whitaker's concerns.

"I'm more worried about the mental challenges," Gregory said. "When you're on your bike with a group of people for 10 weeks or so you're going to run into some unexpected things."

Despite the challenges, Gregory is certain the trip will be rewarding.

"It's a big adventure. There's a lot more to life than work and school," she said. "It'll be rewarding knowing that I rode my bike across the country and that the money I raised went to a good cause."

The students are accepting donations. Checks can be made out to Bike-Aid and sent to 323 Fremont Hall, San Luis Obispo, 93410.

PLANE: Ex-pilot tells of panicked misfire of flare

From page 1

centration. You are very busy up there, and things move very quickly. You're up there to do the mission: attack and destroy the target."

Underneath the back of the gray fighter plane, Mullisen pointed out two small areas where the flares and chaff (cylinders full of pieces of aluminum) were kept. The flares were a decoy for heat-seeking missiles and the chaff decoyed radar-guided missiles.

Moving to the front of the airplane, Mullisen said he flew his first mission as a pilot

alongside the lead plane as a wingman. During the flight, he noticed the radar screen indicating that they had been tracked by radar.

"This meant that I had to fire one of the chaff to decoy the radar," Mullisen said.

"In haste, I fired the flare. The two buttons are very close to one another," he said, pointing to the throttle through the pilot's window.

It wasn't until after the flight that Mullisen realized what he had been doing.

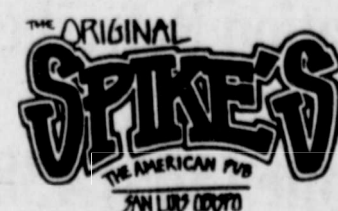
"That cost me I don't know how many beers at the O Club," Mullisen said with a smile.

Tonight, Spike's proudly presents...

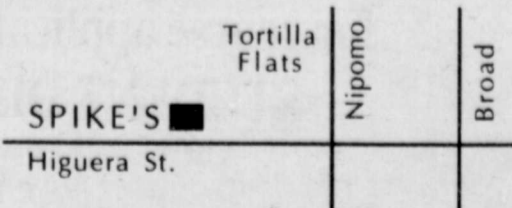
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Mustang Daily

(Read it here or nowhere)

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Announcements

Sneak previews...
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Info Session
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Spring Training is all about
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Wed; Mar 6, 6pm-7pm Chumash

Greek News

AXΩ AXΩ AXΩ AXΩ AXΩ AXΩ AXΩ
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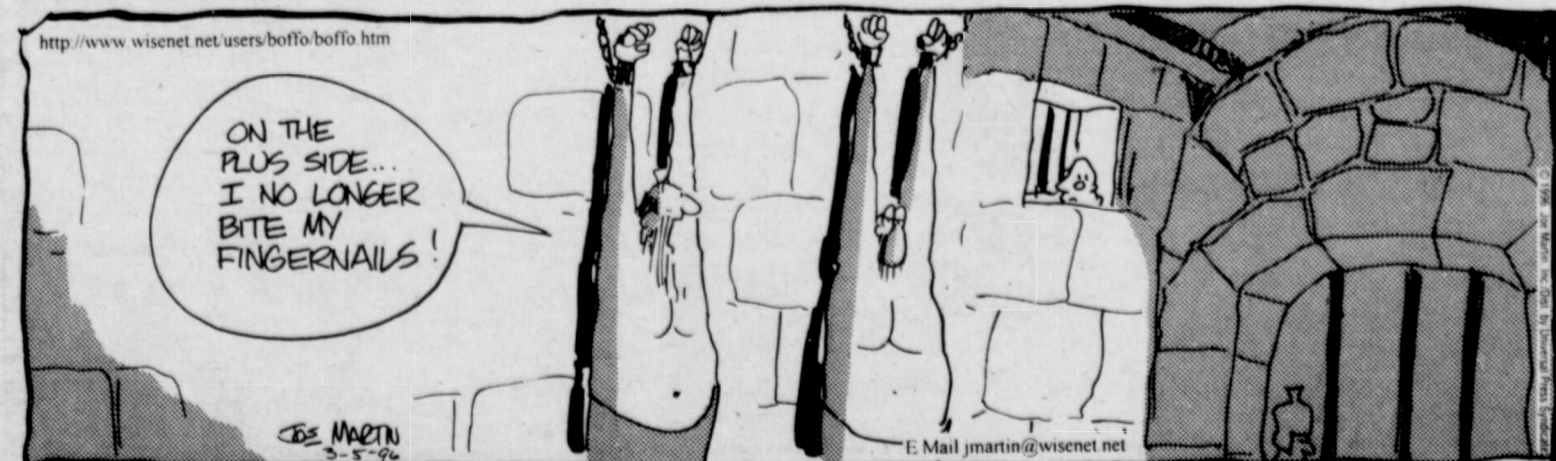
CITIZEN DOG

BY MARK O'HARE



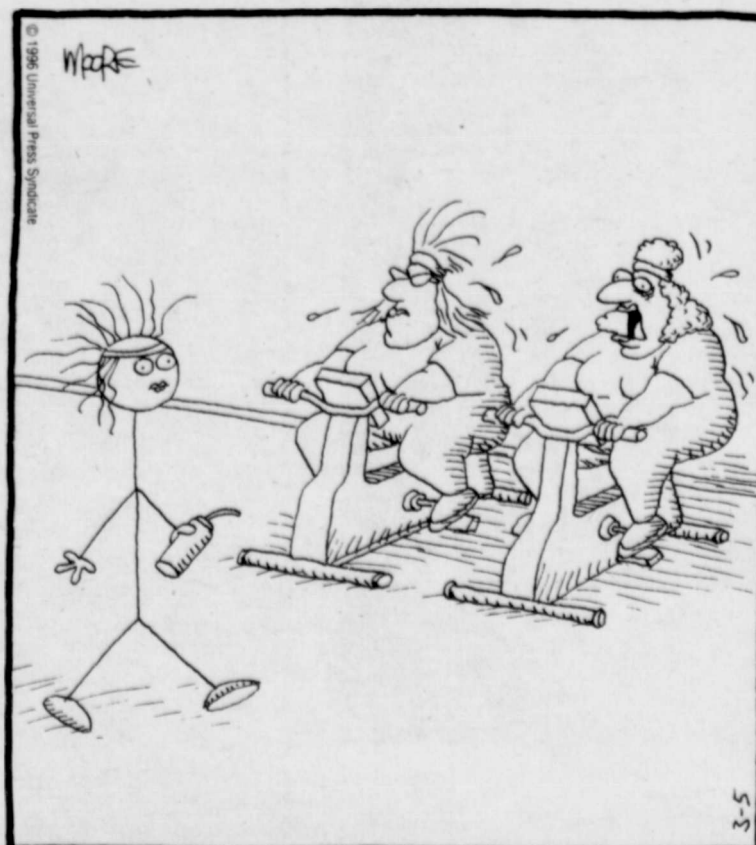
MISTER BOFFO

by Joe Martin



IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore



SPORTS BAR

A TAVERN OF SPORTS NEWS

SCORES

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Cal Poly.....10
Loyola Marymount.....8

SCHEDULE

TODAY'S GAMES

• There are no games scheduled today.

TOMORROW'S GAMES

• There are no games tomorrow.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Earl Weaver hopes for Baseball Hall of Fame induction

Tampa, Fla. (AP) -- Earl Weaver guided his teams to nearly 1,500 victories, reached the World Series four times and posted winning records in all but one of his 17 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles.

Considering that only 11 managers have made it to the Baseball Hall of Fame, it's hard to say whether those impressive credentials will be enough to get him elected when the Veterans Committee meets today.

TOP 25

MEN'S BASKETBALL

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 1. | Kentucky | 26-1 |
| 2. | Massachusetts | 28-1 |
| 3. | Connecticut | 27-2 |
| 4. | Purdue | 25-4 |
| 5. | Kansas | 24-3 |
| 6. | Georgetown | 24-6 |
| 7. | Texas Tech | 25-1 |
| 8. | Cincinnati | 22-4 |
| 9. | Villanova | 24-5 |
| 10. | Utah | 23-5 |
| 11. | Arizona | 23-5 |
| 12. | Wake Forest | 20-5 |
| 13. | Syracuse | 22-7 |
| 14. | Memphis | 21-6 |
| 15. | Virginia Tech | 22-4 |
| 16. | Penn State | 20-5 |
| 17. | UCLA | 21-7 |
| 18. | Georgia Tech | 20-10 |
| 19. | Iowa | 21-7 |
| 20. | North Carolina | 20-9 |
| 21. | Marquette | 20-6 |
| 22. | Louisville | 19-10 |
| 23. | Iowa State | 20-8 |
| 24. | Wisconsin-Green Bay | 25-3 |
| 25. | Mississippi State | 19-7 |

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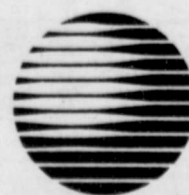
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